

College-Going Culture Assessment



Score each statement:

We are already doing this: **3**

We could do this easily or with a little effort: **2**

This would require a major change or a lot of time: **1**

Visibility

- _____ College pennants, banners, and posters are visible in most classrooms, halls, and common areas.
- _____ Messaging relaying the importance of pursuing postsecondary education is visible throughout the school or through communications channels (school announcements, websites, etc.)
- _____ Teachers include visual cues to encourage discussions about their college experience with their students. Examples include posting information about their alma mater or hanging copies of their college degree.
- _____ Important college enrollment and financial aid deadlines are posted in classrooms and other locations throughout the school.
- _____ College messaging is integrated into events, including sports events or arts performances.
- _____ College success stories are prevalent throughout the school.
- _____ Student work is highly visible in the school and there are opportunities to showcase a wide variety of learning experiences.

Strategy and Evaluation

- _____ Students are aware of the school/state's annual goals related to college-going campaigns, initiatives, and FAFSA completion rates.
- _____ Your school sets goals or benchmarks for improving college-readiness and reports regularly on progress.
- _____ Your school engages all stakeholders in creating a college-going culture or improving college-readiness.
- _____ Your school has created and is implementing an action plan for improving college-readiness.
- _____ The topics of college-readiness and success are integrated into student leadership conversations and meetings.

Academic Inclusiveness

- To your **students and parents, and staff members**, “college” means any education and training after high school, including certificate programs, two-year degree programs, four-year degree programs, or military training.
- Educators, administrators, and staff members extend information about postsecondary opportunities to **all students**.
- Educators, administrators, and staff members encourage and counsel **all students** about postsecondary opportunities and the importance of pursuing education and training beyond high school.
- Academics are recognized as the number one priority in your school and academic achievement is considered a universal point of pride.
- All students are **expected** to pursue some form of postsecondary education and that expectation is conveyed clearly with support from school personnel.
- College-readiness activities are integrated into regular coursework. For example, students learn to write scholarship application essays during English class or compute the cost of attendance in math.

Family, Community and Postsecondary Support

- Family college planning events occur at least twice per year, outside of regular school hours.
- Community leaders are invited to share their college and career experiences with students or to mentor students.
- Recent alumni return to your school to share their college experiences and advice.
- Community organizations and businesses post information about college or encouraging students to pursue postsecondary opportunities.
- College and university staff members visit the school on a regular basis.
- College and university faculty collaborate regularly with teachers at your school.
- Counselors at your school have a close working relationship with admissions and financial aid representatives at colleges and universities.
- Colleges and universities organize or help coordinate on-campus activities for your students.

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Tally your score: _____

30-50 = Beginner

51-70 = Intermediate

71-90 = Advanced

Questions to Consider

In what areas are you doing well?

Which areas need the most improvement?

What can you, as an individual, do to make improvements in your school?
